



State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest – Gate Installation Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Private land located in Section 27, T19S, R30E, MDB&M on assessors parcel # 144-090-04 (Balch Park Road) and federal land located in Section 10, T20S, R30E, MDB&M just west of the Mountain Home Conservation Camp driveway (Bear Creek Road).	COUNTY	Tulare
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Jim Kral, Division Chief Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest	PHONE	(559) 539-2855
ADDRESS	P.O. Box 517, Springville, CA 93265		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves the installation (by CAL FIRE) of a gate at each of the two existing paved roads which provide access to Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest (MHDSF) and surrounding regions. The purpose of this project is to better secure two existing seasonal closures which lead to MHDSF. Tulare County Road Department has been placing barricades on the Balch Park Road and Bear Creek Road to prohibit vehicular traffic above the snowline. Tulare County does not maintain the roads for winter use and snow presents a serious risk to both the public and rescuers. The California Highway Patrol responds to numerous incidents behind the closures each winter. Violators move the barricades and pass through the closure often driving miles into the snow laden forest and often become stuck or injured requiring rescue or medical assistance. The installation of these gates will provide a more secure means of affecting the seasonal road closure. Each installation will consist of digging one hole on each side of the respective road to a depth of approximately 4 feet. A heavy gauge steel post will then be anchored with concrete into each hole. Upon curing, the posts will be fashioned with steel gates that will swing independently of each other where they can be locked together when closed. Closure and opening times will continue to be determined by Tulare County Department of Transportation.

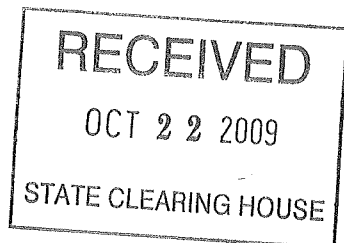
EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1 §15301 Minor Alterations to Existing Public Facilities and 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits within the descriptions for Class 1 and 4 Categorical Exemptions to CEQA pertaining to minor alterations to existing public facilities (the two roads) and minor alterations to land (the excavations need to install gate posts). The entire project alignment is located within previously disturbed ground which reduces the risk of environmental impact. CAL FIRE has determined that this project is exempt. Prior to making this determination, the CAL FIRE Unit completed an environmental review to confirm that no unusual conditions or sensitive resources exist at the project site. Documentation of this environmental review is on file at Unit Headquarters in Viasalia and at CAL FIRE Headquarters in Sacramento.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director
10/22/09
Date